



# **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59718

December 8, 2014

To: FWP Region 3 EA Standard Distribution List  
Richard M. & Marianne K. Morgan, 1374 Clubview Blvd. S., Columbus, OH 43235-1643  
Paradise Valley Community Church, 1755 E. River Rd., Livingston, MT 59047-8715  
PGP Revocable Trust, Pam Durcell Trustee, Denver, CO 80220-6332  
James Patrick Warfield, 3323 Twin Oaks Dr., Napa, CA 94558-5321  
Phil and Sonny Ralston, 54289 Highway 43, Wise River, MT 59762  
Clyde Thompson, 170 Meadow Road, Divide, MT 59727  
Dennis Bacon, 64 Barney Lane, Twin Bridges, MT 59754  
Hank Peterson, 1055 Durant Canyon Road, Opportunity, MT 59711  
Jean and Keith Rankin, PO Box 28, Anaconda, MT 59711

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The enclosed decision notice has been prepared for the Paradise Fishing Access Site Proposed Improvement Project, which has been a popular recreational site since its acquisition by Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP) in 1970. The FAS is located along the Yellowstone River 16 miles south of Livingston, Montana. The site provides quality recreational opportunities for fishing, boating, floating, and picnicking.

Affected by years of heavy use, FWP proposes to renovate the Paradise FAS by redesigning the parking area and campsites, reconditioning the access and interior roads, and replacing the existing jackleg fence.

FWP received two (2) comments regarding the proposed action during the 30-day public comment period; two (2) comments supported the proposal.

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with the proposed action, Alternative B, as described in the Paradise Fishing Access Site Proposed Improvement Draft Environmental Assessment. This alternative updates and improves existing facilities in the FAS.

Questions regarding this Decision Notice should be directed to:

Ray Heagney  
Fishing Access Site Manager  
1400 S 19<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
406-994-6987  
Or emailed to : [rheagney@mt.gov](mailto:rheagney@mt.gov)

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Sheppard", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Sam B. Sheppard  
Region Three Supervisor



# **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

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Bozeman, MT 59718

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DECISION NOTICE**

### **PARADISE FISHING ACCESS SITE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Region Three, Bozeman  
December 8, 2014**

#### **Proposed Action**

In 1970, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) acquired 2.58 acres of land in Park County, Montana, along the Yellowstone River for the purpose of establishing a fishing access site (FAS). FWP proposes to renovate the Paradise FAS by redesigning the parking area and campsites, reconditioning the access and interior roads, and replacing the existing jackleg fence.

#### **Montana Environmental Policy Act**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess significant potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the proposed project by FWP and released for public comment on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken from November 5, 2014 through December 4, 2014. The EA was mailed to 63 groups and individuals.

#### **Summary of Public Comment**

FWP received two (2) comments regarding the proposed action; two (2) comments supported the proposal.

**Comments supporting the proposed project: two (2) total.**

### Examples of Comment Statements Supporting the Proposal

“It looks like the campsites are not quite above the high water line. Is it possible to shrink the size of the pull-ins so the sites are above the line? ”

“I am excited about any improvements.”

**FWP Response:** The proposed campsites are located above the ordinary high water line and outside the floodplain.

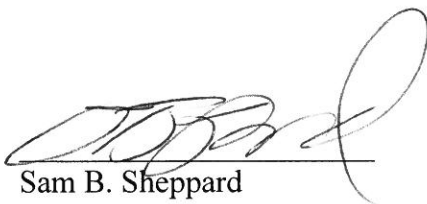
### No Comment opposing the proposed project.

### Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with the proposed action, Alternative B, as described in the Paradise Fishing Access Site Proposed Improvement Draft Environmental Assessment. This alternative updates and improves existing facilities in the FAS.

### Appeal

This project is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to the FWP Director (Mr. Jeff Hagener, Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701) in writing and postmarked within 30 days of the date on this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, explain how the appellant has previously commented to the department or participated in the decision-making process, and lay out how FWP may address the concerns in the appeal. If you have questions regarding this decision notice, please contact Ray Heagney, Fishing Access Site Manager at 406-994-6987.



Sam B. Sheppard  
Region Three Supervisor

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